

Regulations of industries are essential to protect both competition and consumer. The current rules regarding media cross-ownership are painfully inadequate and the idea of further relaxing them will destroy both consumer confidence and essential competition in the industry. Cross ownership, particularly in small markets where competition is already very limited, will destroy any semblance of fair competition. For, example in Montana, the news media is dominated by an out of state corporation, Lee Enterprises, which has purchased (through forced sale) or run out of business nearly every small publication (which refused to sell) in the market with unfair below cost pricing. Small media outlets must adhere to a very tight profit margin that large media can absorb until they are able to control the market then raise prices higher than a competitive market would allow.

If the President is serious about growing a sluggish economy there should be no Administration support for a proposal that is distinctly anti-competition and inflationary.

Do not lift the current ban on cross media ownership.